

The Sun

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1915.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month, \$3.00.

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transportation will eventually injure the railroads; so, while the automobile has taken business from us, in time it will produce additional business and help the movement of people all over the country.

As a people it is doubtful if we are less inclined to see the country than formerly. Rather we are merely finding new ways of doing it.

No, Thank You, Mr. Tappi

We acknowledge the receipt of a suggestion on preparedness by Mr. SIDNEY C. TAPP of Kansas City, Mr. Tapp's profession, as indicated by an imposing letter head, is that of a "Lawyer Retired to Literary and Philosophical Work." He is good enough to send along some certificates as to the quality of the literary and philosophical work he is doing in retirement. These testimonials are of a sufficiently extraordinary character to occupy our attention for a moment or two.

Professor J. SILAS HARRIS writes of TAPP in measured phrase:

"I would rather be the author of 'The Truth About the Bible,' by SIDNEY C. TAPP, than President of the United States."

There is equal restraint in S. M. McCUBBIN, M. D.'s, eulogy:

"Mr. TAPP's works on the Bible will do more to empty our jails, insane institutions and hospitals than any other idea that has ever been given to the world."

There is the same deliberation of judgment in what the Rev. Dr. J. W. CASTER has to say of TAPP:

"He has done more to disclose the truth of the Biblical teachings than all the Theologians of the ages."

Now hear GEORGE T. WASSON, A. B.:

"When DARWIN, SPENCER and HUXLEY are forgotten to the scientific world, and CALVIN and ST. AUGUSTINE are passed out of the memory of the religious and theological world, Mr. TAPP will be fresh in the minds of the men of science and religion. He belongs to the immortals."

We are now in a state of preparedness to listen to the immortal TAPP himself. Here is the suggestion which he wishes to make to the Sixty-fourth Congress through our columns:

"If Congress is to deal with 'preparedness' and the peace question, they [sic] should begin to study the law of metaphysics. War and peace is a sex question—a metaphysical question."

We indignantly protest. If Congress is to begin with a systematic study of metaphysics under Mr. TAPP's supremely adequate guidance, by all means let it be after, and not before, the question of national defense has been disposed of. Otherwise we shall never get anywhere.

Think what the *Congressional Record* would be with an eighty per cent. infusion of metaphysics! Think of the effect, not only on the legislative mind but also on the morale of the army and navy, of committee hearings with TAPP's teachings on metaphysics and sex explained and reinforced by the views of his disciples and admirers, J. SILAS HARRIS and Dr. McCUBBIN, Dr. CASTER and GEORGE T. WASSON, A. B.!

Power of the Health Board

The fact that the Health Board possesses far-reaching authority in the exercise of which it is not subject to restraint by other municipal departments has frequently been demonstrated in New York, and the decision of the Court of Appeals sustaining the dog muzzling regulation was to have been expected. The court says that the "powers of the board are very broad, well nigh plenary." This was shown when it undertook the regulation of transportation companies last year, to cite a recent incident.

But before the over-riding attention of street cars engaged the attention of the board, in other matters it showed its power. Dead Man's Curve defied the best skill of engineers and street railway operators until the Board of Health took it in hand. Colonel WARRING found in its authority the means of getting as much money as he wanted for cleaning the streets when Mayor STRONG sat in City Hall.

At present it has undertaken to make the city obey the rules and observe the standards of sanitary excellence that are established for others. Its potency has been affirmed by the highest court at an opportune moment. It regulates everybody: can it reform Father KNICKERBOCKER?

The Serbians in Albania

With the Serbian army driven into the Albanian mountains and the fugitive Serbian Government temporarily at rest in Scutari, Albania assumes an importance that she has not hitherto had in the war.

The German statement that the Serbian campaign is ended is evidently intended to mean that the pursuit of the remnant of the army is abandoned. Albania without railroads or highways would make military operations on an extensive scale impossible; the transportation of a large force with munitions and supplies from an Austro-German base would not bring results commensurate with the labor and risk it entailed. The Serbians are in position to receive needed supplies from the Allies by way of the Adriatic coast and in this wild mountain land they can carry on to the best advantage the guerrilla warfare to which they now appear to be reduced.

Albania has been without an organized government since the Prince of Wied fled. The southern part, the Epirus, is practically in the possession of the Greeks. The Italians have established themselves at Valona, the

principal seaport, and the semblance of rule exercised by Essad Pasha at Durazzo is through their suzerainty. The land seems ripe for partition or occupation. The possession of its northern portion would help realize the Serb dream of a "window on the sea"; Scutari, for 700 years theirs, is still the "heart's desire" of the race. In the Balkan war and also in the present they occupied this coveted land, but in both they were compelled to relinquish their conquest.

It is a strange freak of fortune that makes Scutari their capital 500 years after it was one of their seats of empire. Whether or not they may possess as their own this city and the land into which they have been crowded will eventually depend on Austria, their enemy, or Italy, their ally. But at least they seem to have found a refuge; for to the Teutonic Powers Albania leads nowhere, it is not a Serbia that opens the way to Constantinople nor a Belgium that lies on the road to Paris, and to carry the war into its barren mountains would be a fruitless adventure.

The Lady and the Constitution

The suffragist who impeached the President for "an impertinent insult to women" inasmuch as he has granted independence to the Philippines and refused it to women showed a moderation scarcely commendable in politics. Once started after the President she should have gone the limit.

It would have been hard on the President, yet quite proper for the lady to have pointed out that the same section of the Constitution which gives the President power to grant the suffrage to women and Filipinos also authorizes him to give to every woman a fur coat and to every man an automobile.

Has he done so? No!

By the way, it will please the veteran WILLIAM ATKINSON JONES of the First Virginia Congress district to learn that his Philippine independence bill was passed, after all.

The New Minister From China

The ancient empire of China sent old men to represent her diplomatically in this country. The young republic of China sends to us as Minister a man just past thirty. But the youthfulness of Dr. WELLINGTON KOO, dwelt upon in reports of his arrival here, is not to be made a nine days wonder. Orientals are born old and wise, and get younger and yet more wise with the years. The new Minister undoubtedly had the process accelerated for him by his course at Columbia University.

Passing time cannot efface the memory of LI HSI-CHANG, free lance ambassador, nor obscure the recollection of WU TING-FANG's contribution to the pleasures of life. Celestials were they, who came to learn and, while they stayed, taught. What is to be the diplomacy of modernized China? It must be widely different from theirs. Apparently it is now in capable hands. Dr. Koo has had diplomatic experience in Mexico. He has the sagacity of his descent and the education of his American environment. The first requisite of a diplomat, knowledge of his own country being assumed, is understanding of the character, the manners and the politics and policies of the nation to which he is accredited.

Whether China continues as a republic or returns to monarchy—with limitations—and however her fortunes may be affected by post-pacem readjustments, her international future will call for peculiar tact, wisdom and ability on the part of all who participate in the management of her affairs. Minister Koo, who guarantees the Chinese national "liking for Americans," will have unsurpassed opportunity for usefulness. Opportunity seems to have made no mistake in knocking at his door.

Not here—Mark on Ford letters received at White House.

Major Mitchell Before the Thompson Committee

Nothing in the record of legislative investigation exceeds in impudence the attitude of the Thompson committee toward Mayor MITCHELL. The committee has allowed the introduction of evidence impugning his honor, and now it announces that it will not summon him to give his version of the matter, but will permit him to testify before the committee if he so desires.

Leaving out of consideration the state of the Mayor's health, which should have influenced the committee as to the time selected for the assault on him, it is plain that the principal effort of the Albany investigators now is to embarrass him in the manner and form of his answer. The plan looks not to the solution of any of this city's difficult problems, but to the accumulation of partisan campaign material for 1916 and 1917.

If Mayor MITCHELL does not go before the committee he will be accused of fearing its inquisition. If he does he will be subjected to examination conducted in the hope of achieving a petty political advantage.

What Stenographers Earn

One detail of the plan to organize the 40,000 women stenographers of this town in a league to raise wages to a minimum of \$8 a week will stir the enthusiasm of the most choicest of shorthand and typewriting and the adoption of measures for the suppression of those which turn out incompetent, half instructed pupils to plague business men by their ineptitude and general unfitness for the tasks they undertake.

The truth is that a great number of so-called stenographers and typists

are not worth a minimum wage of \$8 a week or \$8 a year. They are hired at any price only because some shift must be made to do the work they mangle. The products of their efforts drive their masters' correspondents to frenzy; their inefficiency is the real cause of that distracted, worried look so often seen on the faces of the office managers. Some of them, it is asserted, are willing, industrious, faithful; but their good qualities only emphasize their ineptitude.

An organization that, while striving to better the condition of all stenographers, would improve the technical skill of its members and make them worth the wages they get would be a welcome adjunct to the machinery of every business. We have no doubt that if it gave promise of success in its double mission, those members of society collectively known as the "old men" would joyfully agree to pay the wages it demanded, and in addition support the association as long as hope for it survived in them.

It is said that apologies are to be cut short this season with few trimmings and that the demand for recently, will overlap the supply.

The ladies who want to address Congress upon the subject of votes for women should remember that ardent advocates of national prohibition and champions of still other causes would not like to be heard. Distinguished foreigners, LAFAYETTE, KOSCIUSKO and CHARLES STEWART PARNELL, have been invited to speak on the floor of the House of Representatives, but the bars were never taken down to domestic propagandists. What a plugging precedent would be established if the suffragist ladies had their way!

Says the Steam Roller to the Pork Barrel: "We ain't got a look in this session, I guess."

Mr. FORD does not expect to make peace in Europe. He just wants to start making ready for the coming of the peace which he would continue to favor this excellent word with its sonorous French termination instead of the rascled founding they have picked up with its hybrid, Anglo-Saxon-French composition.

A practical suggestion, Mr. FORD may at least cable over and engage the room.

LORD KITCHENER is usually photographed in a black frock coat. Pictures of him ablaze with decorations are scarce and not to his liking. It is the right direction. His pulse beat no faster when the King of Italy bestowed upon him the Grand Cordon of Saints Maurice and Lazarus. What is a medal or cross more or less to iron visaged K. of K.?

Peace at any price really means pork at any price.

As a result of the war, says a London despatch, the picturesque and useful goat takes a higher position in the economic scale. Likewise in the political scale, where the goat is most useful if not invariably picturesque.

Men too old or infirm to hold permanent jobs are to have a chance to earn a little money by making and selling Christmas toys. A pleasant variation of the old jest about toys giving more fun to the grownups than to the children.

The soldier who stands up in the trench and lets the enemy shoot him rather than fire a gun is the real Christian—An ex-instructor of the University of Pennsylvania.

Just how normal does suicide become in the trenches?

If the captain of the police precinct which covers the neighborhood of Gramercy Park will some fine afternoon stroll along Fourth avenue from Seventeenth street to Twenty-third street, he will probably be able to let out such fearful and deliberate outrages.

Cowardice in those who govern our country is reflected in its flag. In the end it will cost the more the longer it is permitted to last. MAX BOHM.

TRUCKERS, November 27.

Declares He Never Was in Lyons and Knows Not Sancerre and Buetzcher.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Your editorial article on the Lusitania case is in the right direction.

My friends and I have often said: As long as proper retribution has not been dealt out to those guilty of the death of innocent neutral American citizens, taken from us by an act of war directed against them, after threat and warning, so long is our national honor under the shadow of a cloud of shame.

It would be better for the spirit and inner life of our nation to lose thousands and thousands on battlefields than to let such fearful and deliberate outrages pass.

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A LOST WORD?

Preparation for Preparedness is the Speech Doctor's Programme.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I add my word to the appeal in behalf of the Armenian sufferers. I have seen Charles W. Eliot has well said, "There is no more urgent call to-day upon American sympathy and compassion."

The Turkish Government, carrying on a systematic extermination of the Armenians, accompanied by unspeakable cruelties. Multitudes have perished, most of whom could have saved their lives if they would have renounced Christianity. Many others have fled into Russia, Greece and Egypt, escaping with their bare lives. In Russia alone there are more than 200,000 of these refugees, utterly destitute. They are dying at the rate of hundreds a day for want of food, shelter and medicine.

The Armenian cause has been working among them with the Russian Red Cross, writes: "Never in my life have I seen such suffering."

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